



October 2003

Proposed Rule Revision

Arsenic Rule

Chapter 246-291 WAC Group B

Systems affected

The State Board of Health (SBOH) and the Office of Drinking Water are collecting information with regard to reducing the amount of arsenic allowed in Group B public water systems. The rule revision process, if undertaken, will include an analysis of the public health consequences and economic impacts. Consideration of revising the arsenic standard in the State Board of Health rules for Group B Public Water Systems, 246-291 WAC, is being delayed at this time.

Timelines and requirements

Water System Timelines and Requirements:

Water systems will be subject to the revised WAC after it becomes effective if the rule change takes place.

Federal Timelines and Requirements:

There are no federally imposed timelines.

Purpose of rule change

Reduce the amount of arsenic allowed in drinking water by lowering the existing arsenic standard from 50 ppb to 10 ppb in keeping with the Environmental Protection Agency standard for Group A systems.

Public health benefit

Arsenic has been reported to cause more than 30 different adverse health effects including cardiovascular disease, diabetes mellitus, skin changes, nervous system damage, and various forms of cancer after long-term exposure.

Revising the standard to reduce the amount of arsenic allowed in drinking water will lessen people's long-term exposure to arsenic and reduce the risk of adverse health effects.

Key issues of public interest

The SBOH must decide:

- If the lower standard applies to any Group B system;
- If the lower standard applies only to new sources and new systems;
- If the lower standard applies to existing systems;
- Purveyors requirements if their system exceeds the lower arsenic standard;
- The public health consequences and economic impacts for these water systems.

Rule development timeline

State Timelines:

- Develop Draft Regulations – To be determined
- Stakeholder Comment Period – To be determined
- Public Hearing – To be determined
- Rule Adoption – To be determined

A CR-101 was filed on September 12, 2002 as WSR#02-19-060. You can view this document on the web at:

<http://slc.leg.wa.gov/wsr/register.htm>

How to get involved

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For more information

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You can also visit our website at:

[http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/Our Main Pages/regula.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/Our_Main_Pages/regula.htm)